



# AmeriCorps IN Action

## Special points of interest:

- AIM's New Facilities and Partnerships : Page 1
- AmeriCorps Alumni Web-site: Page 2
- AmeriCorps Program of the Month: Page 3
- AmeriCorps Member Story: Page 3
- Important Dates for AmeriCorps Programs: April 2006

## Volunteers Needed!



The OFBCI needs AmeriCorps members to volunteer to assist with the 2006 Governor's Conference on Service & Volunteerism. Volunteers are needed for the following positions material preparation assistants, registration assistants, ushers, ses-

sion monitors. Various shifts and dates are available. **Volunteers**

can use conference time towards service hours! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Erin Wright at [erwright@ofbci.in.gov](mailto:erwright@ofbci.in.gov) or 317-233-0901 or Christina Mauntel at [cmauntel@ofbci.in.gov](mailto:cmauntel@ofbci.in.gov) or 317-234-4235.

## AIM"ing" for New Partnerships and Opportunities

Indiana Mentor Corps or AIM has recently entered into several new partnerships and opened new facilities across the Hoosier state.

During the winter of 2005, Indiana Mentor Corps entered into a new partnership with an Indianapolis juvenile court. This new program will focus on first time juvenile offenders who currently enrolled in middle school. Youth, meeting these criteria, are assigned a mentor who will focus on rehabilitation before and after their release.

Currently, AIM has three

AmeriCorps members working to recruit, train, supervise, and support volunteer mentors. With recently secured funding, Indiana Mentor Corps will be opening a learning lab to assist youths with tutoring and learning about conflict resolution.

AIM recently opened the AIM Reentry Institute. This institute is an immersion-based training for reentry professionals. All AIM staff have taken part in the training offered at this facility. In January, AIM hosted seventeen juvenile reentry professionals from across the United States for rehabilitation training.



*"The staff is so friendly and they help to motivate me and guide me in the right direction. AIM is my family."*  
R. Cain

In addition, to the AIM Reentry Institute, AIM has opened a site in Terre Haute Indiana. This facility will allow residents in 5 more Indiana counties to have access to AIM's services.

## Indiana AmeriCorps Director's Association: Winter Retreat

During the month of February, Indiana AmeriCorps Director's Association held its annual winter retreat at the Four Winds Resort in Bloomington.

Sessions were held about youth led service projects, interactive sessions on poverty, conflict resolution, marketing AmeriCorps experience, and problem solving. The Red



*Americorps members participate in team building exercises during IADA's Winter Retreat.*

support, sustainability, development, member support, and director support. For more information about Indiana AmeriCorps Director's Association, please visit

<http://www.indianaamericorps.org/w/default.as>



*Americorps members received key information at IADA's Winter Retreat.*

Cross held a two day training event for CPR certification. Over 200 AmeriCorps members, directors, and coordinators attended the Winter Retreat.

The Indiana AmeriCorps Directors Association is an organization which assists AmeriCorps programs with



**Don't Forget the 2006 Governor's Conference on Service & Volunteerism! It will be held in Indianapolis, April 10-11, 2006! For more information, please visit**

## Life After Americorps? Are you sure?

What possibilities are open to AmeriCorps members after their year of service is complete? Are you about to finish your year of service and are not sure what is next?

Recently, AmeriCorps Alumni, in partnership with the Hands On Network, have developed a website dedicated exclusively those individuals who have served in AmeriCorps. This



website is designed to assist AmeriCorps alums in using their AmeriCorps experience to further their future plans. It

features a quarterly newsletter, a discussion board, AmeriCorps member search, education center, career center, and much more. This website also provides a forum for former and current Americorps members to share their stories.

For more information about *Americorps Alumni*, check out their website at <http://www.lifetimeofservice.org/>

## AmeriCorps member of the Month: Kewana Lewis– Indiana Mentor Corps

Since summer 2005, Kewana Lewis has served with Indiana Mentor Corps as a mentor to incarcerated youth. She works mainly with young women between the ages of fifteen and seventeen.

By teaching Life After Incarceration classes, she begins working with individuals while they are still incarcerated. The curriculum of Life After Incarceration focuses on life skills. After their release, Kewana continues to guide her assigned youth by setting goals and assisting them in meeting them.

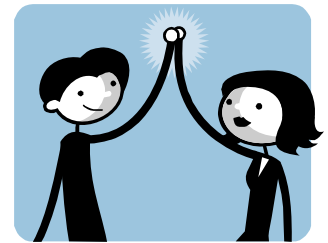
Through the mentoring process, Kewana has seen firsthand the impact she has made on these young women. In December 2005, she was assigned a young woman. Despite rough beginning, Kewana has seen this young lady begin to set and surpass goals.

Kewana credits time spent listening as a key to working with youth. Her motivation to work with youth comes from her desire to honor her son, who died in 2002 at the age of twenty.

Kewana is no stranger to serv-

ing her community. As medical professional for over twenty years, she has worked in many different capacities.

She has also been involved with many different organizations prior to beginning her service with Americorps including Young Life, Healthy Babies, and All That and More. Kewana also actively involved in her church by organizing group events for women and the proud mother of a daughter and grandmother of six.



## Program of the Month: Indiana Mentor Corps

*“To support Indiana’s incarcerated youth in making the transition from corrections to community through healthy relationships with adult mentors.”*

Indiana Mentor Corps mission statement.

Indiana Mentor Corps or AIM is a partnership between Indiana Department of Correction and IUPUI. Founded in fall of 1996, Indiana Mentor Corps has sought to find a solution to reduce the recidivism rate among juveniles. By providing key mentoring services, AIM

has seen a significant reduction re-offending rates among juveniles enrolled in the program. Throughout the last ten years, AIM has grown to encompass nine juvenile detention centers in Indiana and offers its services in 53 counties across the state.

AmeriCorps members began serving with Indiana Mentor Corps in the fall of 2000. While serving with Indiana Mentor Corps, members assist in many different aspects. AmeriCorps members begin to work with incarcerated youth prior

to their release.

Members, through in-depth interviews, begin by identifying critical needs of their assigned youth. Next, they identify community services that will work with juveniles after their release. AIM continues to offer support services for juveniles after their release.

For more information about Indiana Mentor Corps, please visit <http://aim.spea.iupui.edu/>.

## T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, and Hats! Oh My!

Want to show your pride about involvement with national service? The Cooperation for National and Community Service offers many different clothing options for sale at its website. Members can



choose from a large selection of styles and sizes which feature AmeriCorps, Learn

and Serve, Senior Corps, and Martin Luther King Day logos. For the bargain hunters, there is also a clearance section. For more information, please visit

[www.nationalservicecatalog.org](http://www.nationalservicecatalog.org).



Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

302 West Washington Street, Room E012

Indianapolis, IN 46204

317-233-4273

[www.ofbci.in.gov](http://www.ofbci.in.gov)

## April 2006: Important Dates

April 10-11, 2006 2006 Governor's Conference on Service & Volunteerism

For more information, please visit <http://www.in.gov/ofbci>

Governor's Conference on Service & Volunteerism  
**BE THE SOLUTION**

April 10, 2006 FSR due for period January 1, 2006-March 31, 2006 (March PER must be completed first)

April 21-23, 2006 National and Global Youth Service Day  
For more information, please visit <http://www.YSA.org/nysd>



April 28, 2006 Progress Reports Due

April 23-29, 2006 2006 National Volunteer Week, for more information, please visit

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/>

